

June 23, 1972

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL
(BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting on Friday, June 23, 1972, at 4:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall for the purpose of a Budget Workshop Session.

2. ROLL CALL: Present were Councilmen Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller. Councilman Wilson arrived at 4:40 P.M.

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, Assistant City Manager Scharfman, City Attorney Remelmeyer, City Clerk Coil, Finance Director Dundore, Budget Officer Ng, and Assistant Finance Director Rankin.

3. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:

A. PRESENTATION OF STAFF REPORTS.

In response to Council-requested information at the June 22nd session, Staff furnished written and oral reports pertaining to: Interest Earnings Forecast; Status of Assessment District re: Improvement of Parkways; Communication Systems; Construction Tax; Projections re: Revenues; Torrance Transit System; and License Fees.

It was the recommendation of the Mayor, concurred in by the Council, that the matter of the Torrance Transit System be referred to the Transportation Committee to review the findings presented at this time.

Avenues and alternatives offered by the 1972-73 Budget in the adoption thereof were discussed. It was the comment of Councilman Brewster that the need for additional monies is painfully obvious, and it was his recommendation that some allowance be made in the budget for revenue sharing funds, as is done in other projections re: revenues. Discussion was then directed to this approach, possible deferment of projects until the confirmation of revenue sharing, and, specifically, to the Utility Users Tax Exemption.

It was stated by Mayor Miller that he, if need be, would vote against the exemption in that he would rather have the capital improvements -- if it is possible to work something out via revenue sharing, that would be acceptable to him, but a firm capital improvement program must be established. The Mayor then polled the Council as to their feeling in this matter:

Councilman Uerkwitz indicated that he would agree this appears to be a satisfactory compromise at this time, the compromise obviously being to obtain funds from revenue sharing, if it is a legitimate procedure.

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Councilman Wilson indicated his concurrence with the foregoing thinking, as did Councilman Surber, along with his concern that every effort be made to reduce the budget as much as possible.

It was the comment of Councilman Armstrong that he is opposed to retaining the Utility Users Tax Exemption in that any disadvantages to industry are offset by a number of advantages, including, but not limited to, the advantageous policies and practices for assessing property value, the bulk rate costs of utilities, manpower resources and the natural advantage of being in this community. The compromise now presented is acceptable to Mr. Armstrong.

At this point, Mayor Miller reviewed the arguments, pro and con, relative to the exemption, and again stated that he would support the exemption with the exemption if revenue sharing does not materialize, but it was the further opinion of the Mayor that taxes should not be raised simply for the sake of raising taxes if other avenues are available.

Councilman Sciarrotta pointed out that he had voted for the exemption, after many committee meetings, in order that Torrance have a favorable climate for industry -- but the time has come to "scratch the bottom of the barrel" and a change may have to take place. Revenue sharing funds could prove to be the difference, but something must be done soon in the matter of the long overdue capital improvements.

It was the consensus of the majority of the Council that should the revenue sharing not materialize, it will be necessary to revise the utility users tax exemption.

It was agreed to resume discussion tomorrow, Saturday, June 23, 1972, with Staff to return with the following budget revisions, and the representatives there by:

- A cut of 10 positions (or alternatives);
- The closing of the Post Avenue Library;
- "Green only" for Sur La Brea Park.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:35 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adjourn to Saturday, June 24, 1972, at 9:00 A.M. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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Vernon W. Coil, City Clerk of the City of Torrance, California

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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